

## HOW TO SCREED A FLOOR OR ROOF USING SCREEDLITE

These instructions are to be used as a guide only as this is not the only bonded screed method in use. Before starting, please ensure that you wear suitable protective clothing, boots, gloves and safety glasses. If contact occurs with the skin or eyes, wash with water immediately. If irritation continues, seek medical advice.

### Typical steps to achieve a great bonded screed on floors and roofs

#### 1. Take a close look at the substrate

For your screed to bond properly, you will need a sound, well-cured substrate or base surface. To check this, scrape a sharp object such as a nail across the surface. It should not dust or crumble. If it does, more preparation may be needed.

#### 2. Calculate how much ScreedLite you are going to need

Below is a table to calculate the coverage per square metre based on the thickness you need.

Screed thickness	Square metre coverage per bag
25mm	1m <sup>2</sup>
30mm	0.85m <sup>2</sup>
35mm	0.71m <sup>2</sup>
40mm	0.64m <sup>2</sup>
45mm	0.57m <sup>2</sup>
50mm	0.5m <sup>2</sup>
100mm	0.25m <sup>2</sup>

To calculate the number of bags you require, multiply the length of the area by the width in metres to give you the total number of square metres. Take that calculation and multiply by the number of bags you need for your required thickness based on the table above. the screed thickness in millimetres to give you the requirement in cubic metres.

Alternatively, you can work on 40 bags of ScreedLite per cubic metre eg. a 30mm screed for a 3mx3m room would be calculated as follows: 3m x 3m = 9m<sup>2</sup> x 30mm = 270litres (0.27 cubic metres) therefore 0.27m<sup>3</sup> x 40 bags = 11 bags. It is advisable to order 5-10% additional material to cater for loss and wastage.

#### 3. Prepare the surface properly

You need a rough surface, suitable for bonding across the whole base surface. If the surface is already rough, clean off all loose material and dust. If not, you will need to chip the surface with a hammer and chisel, pick or similar tools. Make sure to scarify the entire surface and remove all paint and loose debris with a stiff broom.

To prevent expansion and contraction, install expansion joints along the perimeter walls.

#### **4. Getting your bonding slurry right**

Wet the prepared surface with water for at least 1 hour before applying the bonding slurry. Create a thick slurry by mixing 2 parts of water with 5 parts of AfriSam All-Purpose cement. For better adhesion, add an acrylic bonding agent according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Remove excess water from the surface and brush the bonding slurry evenly across the surface using a stiff bristled broom.

It is important to ensure that your screed is placed within 15 minutes of finishing the bonding slurry.

#### **5. Prepare your ScreedLite**

Mix ScreedLite using a spade on a flat, clean surface or in a wheelbarrow.

Thoroughly mix the contents of the bag as some settlement of the material may have occurred. Using only clean, potable water, mix to an even consistency much the same as a traditional relatively dry screed. Do not overmix as the perlite particles are fragile and overmixing can pulverize the particles resulting in performance loss.

Do not overwater as too much water will weaken the mix and increase the risk of cracking. A mix that is too stiff with too little water, on the other hand, may not compact properly resulting in the screed crumbling over time.

#### **6. Placing and compaction**

Always start in the furthest corner and work towards the exit. Spread the mix and tamp down gently ensuring that there is full contact between the screed and the bonding slurry. It is ***strongly recommended*** that you use a board with a surface area of at least 250mm x 250mm as a stamper instead of a straight edge as perlite particles are fragile and rough compaction may pulverise the particles resulting in performance loss.

Check the thickness of your screed continually and use a straight edge and spirit level in all directions to ensure that your screed is level. In the case of a roof screed with a slope, ensure that the angle meets the specification and that there are no dips in the screed which could result in water pooling.

If the screed is to receive carpets or ceramic tiles, use a swirling motion with a wooden float to create a textured paste on the surface.

If the screed is to receive glued vinyl tiles, use a swirling motion of a steel trowel to create a smooth paste on the surface.

In the case of a roof screed, ensure that the surface is textured to meet the requirements of the waterproofing system to be installed.

Please note that ScreedLite offers minimal wear-resistance and requires a floor covering eg, tiles, vinyl, carpet or wood. For roof screeds, ScreedLite is not water-resistant and therefore needs to be suitably water-proofed.

Never use dry cement on the surface as these will result in cracking, delamination and dusting.

#### **7. Curing**

Immediately after final finishing, keep wet and cover with plastic sheeting for at least 7 days.